[Mr. A. Lekshminarayana Aiyar].

perhaps refer to a recent activity of the Research Department of the Travancore University. To overcome the increasing difficulty experienced in getting Formic acid and Acetic acid which were formerly imported and used as coagulants in the production of rubber in the estates, Sulpholex, an ersatz material prepared according to the formula developed by the Central Research Institute has been marketed by the Travancore Sugars and Chemicals Ltd. This has supplied a vital necessity without which the Rubber Industry may have suffered serious lost. The Research Department of the University has been very efficiently continuing its other activities also.

24. *Industries.* In order to meet enquiries relating to machines and equipments for small scale industries and also to assist in the growth and development of many new industries in the State, especially those of small scale as also advanced cottage industries, it is proposed to open an industrial machinery show-room. Various engineering firms and inventors of labour saving devices for cottage and other industries will be invited to display specimens of their machinery in that show-room.

25. *Agriculture.* As the most vital need of the country at the present moment is the increased production of food-stuffs, the department has organised in co-operation with the Public Works and the Electrical departments a vigorous campaign for the extension of the area under cultivation of different food crops, the extension of punja cultivation and the application of scientific manures to the areas already brought under the plough to secure larger yields. Sixteen manure depots have been opened in different centres for the sale of suitable manure mixtures for paddy and tapioca to ryots on the security of their crops.

26. *Medical.* The Medical department is at present the only major department of the State which is completely centralized in its administration with no District officers for any intermediate supervision or control. Provision has therefore been made in the next year's budget for a scheme for the better and more efficient administration of the department on a decentralised basis by the appointment of a few District Officers. There is also a liberal provision in the Budget for the opening of new dispensaries to cater to the needs of the labouring classes at Kallar and Kalaketty and for providing better amenities in the existing medical institutions, such as the construction of up-to-date Sanitary arrangements in the Sachivottama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar Memorial Ward attached to the District Hospital, Quilon, and purchase of equipments for the new block of the Ophthalmic Hospital at Trivandrum.

27. *Public Health.* The House may not be unware that the maternity and child welfare service started in ten rural centres in 1118 as an experimental measure in the first instance having proved itself very useful to the public was made a permanent arrangement

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from the commencement of this year. Since then, various applications have been received for the extension of the service to other centres also. This being a much needed service, Government have decided to open ten more rural centres of maternity and child welfare service. Further, with a view to encourage private enterprise in these matters, especially when such enterprises are readily forthcoming, it is proposed to subsidise a few village unions which have undertaken to take up this all important and much needed service.

28. *Co-operative.* The condition of the co-operative movement in the State had for some time past been receiving the serious attention of Government. They therefore appointed an Advisory Committee to assist the Registrar of Co-operative Societies in drawing up a scheme for the rehabilitation of the movement. The most important of the recommendations of the Committee is for the reconstruction of the financing banks, the chief of which is the apex financing institution, *viz.* the Central Co-operative Bank Ltd., Trivandrum. An examination of the financial position of the Central Bank, the Taluk Banks and the primary societies has disclosed that the cardinal defect is not that they are in any way financially unsound, but that their assets are in a frozen condition. A substantial assistance to the Central Bank for the purpose of granting loans on easy terms to some good societies so that they may be put on a sound footing and serve as a model and stimulus to others has been recommended by the Advisory Committee. Government accept the recommendation and propose to advance to the Central Bank a loan of Rs. 1 lakh on the security of the assets of the movement. Government hope and trust that the financial assistance so rendered will be made good use of by the movement to set itself once again on a firm and strong basis.

29. *Uplift of Backward Communities.* The main items of uplift work proposed for the next year comprise assignment of land for house sites and cultivation, the establishment and maintenance of colonies, the award of educational facilities and concessions, the promotion of cottage industries etc. An increased provision is made in the next year to afford better help to these communities.

30. *Currency and Mint.* The minting and issue of a fresh stock of copper coins to meet the growing demand from the public for these coins is provided for in the next year's budget.

31. *Miscellaneous.* In view of the general increase in the price of commodities including even the barest necessaries of life, a special provision of Rs. 2 lakhs has been made in the budget under Miscellaneous Expenditure for the grant of a dearness allowance of Re. 1 per mensem to the low-paid subordinates in the service of the State drawing a pay less than Rs 15.

Besides the provision of Rs 1 lakh for investment, an additional provision of Rs 1 lakh has also been made for expenditure on relief of distress.

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